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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY—Examination of Rats for Plague Infection.

The following information is taken from bulletins issued by the department of health of New South Wales:

During the month of August, 1910, 5,461 rats were destroyed. Of this number 1,792 were examined for plague infection. No plague-infected rats were found.

The last case of human plague at Sydney was reported May 29, 1909. The last plague-infected rat was found April 4, 1910.

Summary of Rat Examination in 1909.

Consul-General Bray at Sydney reports, August 31:

An official report for the State of New South Wales for the year 1909 shows that 26,744 rats were examined at the bureau of microbiology. Of this number 177 were found to be plague infected. No plague rats were found later than June 19 of that year. Fleas appeared to be most numerous on the rats taken during the first four months of the year, particularly during March and April, comparatively few fleas being found later. A second rise in September in the number of fleas found was accounted for by the receipt of flea-infested rats, all obtained from the same locality; hence the increase is not to be regarded as indicating a second maximum. There was not found a rise such as might have been expected to occur during the warmer months of the year. The most common species of rat flea (*Leomopsylla cheopis*) underwent in March and April an increase out of all proportion with that shown by other species. This increase was coincident with the existence of plague.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Status of Cholera.

The American ambassador at Vienna reported October 5 to the Department of State:

From September 23 to October 5 there were reported 12 cases of cholera with 5 deaths in Austria and the Austrian crown lands, and in Hungary from September 24 to October 5, 56 cases with 26 deaths.

Consul Slocum, at Fiume, reported to the Department of State:

October 4, 6 additional cholera-infected districts in Hungary officially reported; October 5, 9 additional infected districts; October 7, 6 additional districts.

TRIESTE—Cholera.

The American consul reported October 16 to the Department of State the occurrence of a case of cholera.